

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 02723 030958Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 COME-00 DODE-00 NSF-01 /019 W
-----031006 130543 /12

O R 030914Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9532
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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PASS TO OES/OFS/MST WILLIAM ERB OR ALTERNATE

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OCLR, ID, SN
SUBJECT: R/V THOMAS WASHINGTON

REF: RANGOON 0600

1. AS A CONTRIBUTION TOWARD PREVENTION OF POTENTIAL CONFISCATION OF SHIP
BY GUB (SEE REFTTEL), AMEMB JAKARTA POUCHING TO RANGOON LIMITED BACKGR
OUND
INFORMATION ON R/V THOMAS WASHINGTON AND ITS GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH
PROGRAM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WHICH UNDER AUSPICES CCOP, COMMITTEE FOR
COORDINATION OF JOINT PROSPECTING OF ASIAN OFFSHORE AREAS(HDQS.
BANGKOK) AND IDOE, INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF OCEANOGRAPHIC EXPLORATION
,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION, UNESCO, PARIS.

2. CURRENT PROGRAM IS CALLED SEATAR, STUDIES OF EAST ASIA TECHTONICS
AND RESOURCES, SUGGESTED BY DR. JOHN KATILI OF INDONESIA AT 1973 CCOP
MEETING. UNFORTUNATELY, BURMA NOT MEMBER OF CCOP. CURRENT EXPEDITION
CALLED INDOPAC (INDOPACIFIC), WHICH STARTED IN MARCH 1976,
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COMPLETING EIGHT "LEGS" IN WESTERN PACIFIC AND MARGINAL BASINS OF
SOUTHEAST ASIA BY LAST SEPTEMBER 1977 PROGRAM OF INDOPAC
INVOLVES LEGS 9-15, OF WHICH ONLY LEG 11, IN ANDAMAN SEA, OF INTEREST
TO ISSUE. AMEMB JAKARTA HAS ONLY SMALL SCALE MAP, BUT SHADED AREA OF
INTENDED THOMAS WASHINGTON OPERATIONS APPEARS TO GO NORTH TO ABOUT
15 DEGREES NORTH LAT., BUT UNABLE SPECULATE HOW CLOSE TO BURMESE
TERRITORIAL WATERS.

3. THOMAS WASHINGTON IS ROUGHLY 208 FT. LONG, 40 FEET BEAM, 15 FT. DRAFT, 1362 TONS DISPLACEMENT WITH CREW NORMALLY 19 AND SCIENTIFIC PARTY UP TO 23. IT IS OPERATED BY SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, WITH CALIFORNIA REGISTRATION NUMBER CF-0475XS. RADIO CALL IF KGWU. IT MAINTAINS WATCH ON RADIO FREQUENCY 2182 KHZ AND CHANNEL 16 VHF WHEN UNDERWAY. SHIP NOT INVOLVED IN FISHING, BUT AS IT IS DOING GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH, IT CARRIES EXPLOSIVES FOR REFRACTION STUDIES. THESE NUMBER THOUSANDS OF 8 LB. TNT BLOCKS AND 20 LB. CHAINS OF 8 TWO AND HALF POUND BLOCKS, AND HUNDREDS OF SMALLER UNITS. IF SHIP CHALLENGED BY BURMESE NAVY, EXPLOSIVE CARGO MAY CAUSE MORE MISUNDERSTANDINGS THAN ANY FISH CARGO. ABOUT ON THIRD OF TOTAL EXPLOSIVES ARE INTENDED TO BE USED DURING LEG 11, ANDAMAN SEA.

4. INDOPAC ACTIVITIES FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED BY NSF, ONR LEG 11 AND U. OF CAL. SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP FOR LEG 11 IS DR. J.R. CURRAY, PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY, SCRIPPS. OUR INFORMATION INDICATES SCIENTIFIC CREW OF 17 U.S. CITIZENS FROM SCRIPPS AND TWO GUEST SCIENTISTS FROM ANDHRA UNIVERSITY, INDIA. INDONESIAN OFFICIALS AND SCIENTISTS PRESUMABLY LEFT SHIP AT END OF LEG 10, SINGAPORE, AND WILL REBOARD FOR LEG 12, 13, ETC., WHICH WILL BE BACK IN INDONESIAN WATERS.

5. APPEARS DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE PRIME RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPOND TO EMBASSY/RANGOON'S CONCERN, BUT EMBASSY/JAKARTA HOPES ABOVE INFO AND POUCHED MATERIAL WILL BE OF HELP IN INTERIM.

NEWSOM
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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SAS ID: 3221873
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